

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of allocating a plurality of data frames amongst a plurality of basestations,  
2 said plurality of data frames spanning an interval of time, said method comprising:  
  
3 for each of said plurality of basestations allocating a sub-set of said plurality of data  
4 frames, said sub-set being contiguous in time within said interval of time.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of basestations operates using the  
2 same carrier frequency.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said data frames are timeslots in a Time Division  
2 Multiple Access (TDMA) wireless network.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of basestations form part of a TDMA  
2 wireless network employing at least one of the Enhanced Data rates for Global  
3 Evolution (EDGE) and EDGE Compact standards.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
  
2 wherein said each of said plurality of basestations operates using a plurality of  
3 frequencies, allocating to each of said plurality of basestations a sub-set of said  
4 plurality of data frames for each of said plurality of frequencies used by a  
5 basestation, said sub-set of said plurality of data frames being contiguous in time  
6 within said interval of time.
- 1 6. A method of allocating a bitmap of resources in a wireless network amongst a plurality  
2 of co-channel basestations, said bitmap formed by a group of data frames, said method  
3 comprising:

dividing said bitmap of resources into sub-bitmaps, each of said sub-bitmaps formed by a contiguous portion of said group of data frames, each of said sub-bitmaps not overlapping in time with any other of said sub-bitmaps; and

allocating at least one of said sub-bitmaps to each of said plurality of co-channel basestations.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising:

prior to said dividing, forming the size of each of said sub-bitmaps responsive to at least one of: service loads for each of said plurality of co-channel basestations during at least one previously allocated bitmap; and service demands for each of said plurality of co-channel basestations during at least one previously allocated bitmap.

8. A basestation in a wireless cell, said basestation comprising:

a processing circuit in communication with memory storing computer readable instructions, said computer readable instructions adapting said processing circuit to:

receive instructions indicating a time period during which said basestation may communicate with mobilestations to be serviced by said basestation, said time period defined by a contiguous set of data frames; and

transmit to each of said mobilestations to be serviced by said basestation data identifying a portion of time during which a mobilestation may communicate with said basestation; and

11                   communicate with said mobilestations during said time period.

1   9. The basestation of claim 8 wherein said instructions indicating a time period during  
2       which said basestation may communicate are defined by a group of timeslots, said  
3       group of timeslots defining a sub-bitmap.

1   10. The basestation of claim 9 wherein said processing circuit is further adapted to:

2       receive instructions defining a plurality of sub-bitmaps; and

3       allocate each of said plurality of sub-bitmaps to a sector serviced by said  
4       basestation.

1   11. A method of allocating wireless network resources amongst a plurality of basestations,  
2       said wireless network resources comprising a group of data frames, said method  
3       comprising:

4       receiving requests for wireless network resources from said plurality of basestations;

5       responsive to said requests, assigning to each of said plurality of basestations a  
6       portion of said wireless resources, said portion comprising a group of said data  
7       frames, said group of said frames being contiguous in time.

1   12. A method for coordinating operation of a plurality of basestations, each of said  
2       basestations operating with the same carrier frequency, said method comprising:

3       for a given time period, allocating a contiguous portion of said given time period to  
4       each of said plurality of basestations; and

transmitting to each of said plurality basestations data identifying said contiguous portion of said given time period allocated to a basestation.

13. The method of claim **12** further comprising:

prior to said allocating, determining the service load for at least some of said plurality of basestations; and

wherein the size of said contiguous portions assigned to said each of said plurality of basestations is proportional to said service loads determined.

14. A computer readable medium operable to provide instructions for directing a processor circuit to allocate a bitmap of resources in a wireless network amongst a plurality of co-channel basestations, said bitmap formed by a group of data frames, said instructions directing said processing circuit to:

divide said bitmap of resources into sub-bitmaps, each of said sub-bitmaps formed by a contiguous portion of said group of data frames, each of said sub-bitmaps not overlapping in time with any other of said sub-bitmaps; and

allocating at least one of said sub-bitmaps to each of said plurality of co-channel basestations.

15. The computer readable medium of claim **14** further adapting said processing circuit to:

form the size of each of said sub-bitmaps responsive to at least one of: service loads for each of said plurality of co-channel basestations during at least one previously allocated bitmap; and service demands for each of said plurality of co-channel basestations during at least one previously allocated bitmap.